

Partnerships West

A regular update on partnership developments in West Cheshire



WELCOME....to this month's news and activity from the West Cheshire Together partnerships framework.

It has recently been announced by the Audit Commission that the **Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)** - the independent assessment of public services - will cease with immediate effect. This follows the announcement to abolish CAA by the new Coalition Government in "Our programme for Government" launched on 20th May (view document at: <http://programmeforgovernment.hmg.gov.uk/>)

What this means in West Cheshire: All work on updating the area assessment and organisational assessment will cease with immediate effect. These assessments on the Oneplace website (<http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx>) will not now be updated.

Key messages from the announcement include:-

- ⇒ *Meetings with the Audit Commission on CAA will cease, as will the evidence gathering process;*
- ⇒ *The Audit Commission will not be reporting on Green and Red Flag areas; and*
- ⇒ *The Audit Commission will continue with the limited programme of risk-based inspections currently underway. Other inspectorates will continue with their standalone inspection programmes.*

The Self Assessment: A Self Assessment is a clear and balanced document which outlines the LSP's progress over a given year. It is not a compulsory element of CAA but, last year, West Cheshire Together decided it was a worthwhile exercise to identify its best practice and areas for improvement. Last year's Self Assessment can be viewed on the West Cheshire Together website at: <http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/pdf/West%20Cheshire%20Together%20-%20The%20Area%20in%20Perspective1.pdf>

This year's Self Assessment is nearing completion and will be finalised and presented to the LSP in July. It is important to continue with this process to ensure our evidence base is kept up to date and to ensure that we continue focusing on improving outcomes for local people.

Future assessment / inspection: We will hold a close dialogue with the Audit Commission and key contacts at the national and local level to ensure that West Cheshire Together is at the forefront of any new developments regarding any new assessment process.

For further information, contact Laurence Ainsworth, Senior Policy Manager, on 01244 977147 or e-mail: laurence.ainsworth@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Impact Week in Ellesmere Port: 1st – 5th June

Cheshire West and Chester Council, in partnership with Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, NHS Western Cheshire, various statutory agencies, faith and community sectors, delivered a packed programme of informative and entertaining activities for the local communities of **Rossmore, Westminster, Grange, Stanney, Parklands** and **Wolverham** as well as in Ellesmere Port **town centre** during the week 1st – 5th June.

The NEAT (Neighbourhood Environment Action) Team was on call in all areas, most notably on the Rossmore Estate/Rother Drive where they made dramatic improvements to the play area on Wharfe Lane which had become a hot spot for fly-tipping and arson incidents (burnt out cars).



During the week, a Climbing Wall was sited at Rossmore Grange and in the Civic Square in the town centre, proving a great hit with youngsters. Children also participated in an organised litter pick at all locations and Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service offered free Smoke Alarms and Home Fire Safety checks to householders in all the areas.

Police Community Support Officers were also on hand to provide property/bike marking, anti-pick pocket wallet/purse bells and advice on cyber bullying. The Council's Community Engagement Officers were encouraging local residents to share their ideas on improvements to their local area.

An Indoor Market stall hosted the following: advice on Energy Efficiency, Benefits, Employment Skills, Credit Union, Connexions and services offered to residents by Age Concern Cheshire.

Finally, a well-attended Family Fun Day was held on Rossmore which brought the week to a close. As a result, Community Engagement Officers will be meeting with a group of residents who are very keen to set up a Residents' Association.

For further information, contact Collette Linford, Community Engagement Officer, on 0151 356 6691 or e-mail: collette.linford@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Get to know your Neighbours at The Big Lunch: Sunday 18th July

The Big Lunch is calling on all neighbourhoods and communities across the UK to come together on **Sunday 18th July**. Events around the nation are taking shape from simple tea parties in back gardens to large street parties for the whole neighbourhood.



hello and sit down to lunch together in a simple act of community.

Building on last year's event, it is hoped even more people will take part, building stronger communities and giving neighbourhoods a chance to come together, share food and have fun.

There are already a number of community-led events being organised across the borough, including: **Chester (events at Kingsway & Newton, Blacon Children's Centre and BIG Storage); Ellesmere Port (Whitby Park); Winsford (events at Glebe Green Estate, St Chad's Fields and Lichfield Court); Northwich & Rural North (events at Northwich Train Station, Pullman Drive and Cotebrook Road Neighbourhood House)**. If we hear of any more, we'll list them in the July bulletin but, in the meantime, you can visit the Big Lunch website at www.thebiglunch.com to find a Big Lunch in your area or for a whole menu of ideas on how you can run your own Big Lunch. For further information, contact Caroline Rams or Leena Patel in the Big Lunch Press Office on 020 7307 3104.

Two new TSA Briefing Papers – one on the **Compact** (aimed at raising awareness and knowledge within small and community groups) and one on the **new West Cheshire Sustainable Community Strategy “Together we can Aim High”** (following its launch at the end of April) - are in final stages of production and will be available during June 2010. A more detailed **Commissioning Guide** is also in preparation (currently awaiting developments on the commissioning process and work from the TSA Commissioning Working Group) and a paper on the **Marmot Review on Health Inequalities** will also be available in July. Copies of Briefing Paper 1 (*Comprehensive Area Assessment*) and Briefing Paper 2 (*Basic Guide to Commissioning*) are available on request from Anne Lancaster.



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The Third Sector Assembly (TSA) made a successful bid to hold the Northwest Regional event in a programme of six national events run by the National Association for Voluntary and Community Associations (NAVCA) around the Personalisation Agenda: “Promoting Choice”. The personalisation of social care is a major change in the way adult social care will be delivered in the future with important implications for the third sector (voluntary, community, faith, social enterprise and not for profit groups and organisations) both for those who currently deliver services and those who advise or support users of services.

Over 90 delegates from West Cheshire and across the region attended the seminar on 26th March at the Queen Hotel in Chester. The event included presentations from the National Council for independent Living and NAVCA, with presentations and workshops from Northwest and Cheshire public and voluntary sector organisations including Age Concern, Cheshire Carers Centre, Cheshire Centre for Independent Living, Learning Together Cheshire and Warrington, Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Learning Resource Network.

Copies of paperwork from the event are available from Anne Lancaster, TSA Co-ordinator. A conference report will also be available shortly and plans are being developed to take forward some of the issues and needs identified on the day.

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A new **TSA website** is now in its final stages of development and will be operational shortly. It will include information on the TSA and its networks, news and events, and links to important national and local policy initiatives. Further details will follow in the July bulletin.

For further information, contact Anne Lancaster, Third Sector Assembly Co-ordinator, on 07801 015261 / 01244 323527 or e-mail: anne.lancaster@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk / anne.lancaster@chesterva.org.uk

“Growing Food for our Future”

In partnership with the Cheshire Sustainability Alliance, Cheshire Community Action and Reaseheath Enterprise Delivery Hub, an event has been scheduled for **Monday 12th July** (12.30 – 4.45pm to include a local produce lunch) at **Reaseheath College, Nantwich**.

This half day event is an opportunity for community groups, schools, businesses, Local Councils and others to come together and explore how to get involved with growing food locally; the benefits of it; sourcing local produce; and sharing ideas, skills and knowledge amongst local food growing initiatives.

For further information on this event, please contact John Heselwood on 01244 323602 or email: john.heselwood@cheshireaction.org.uk before 8th July.

Neighbourhood Strolls 2010

A quick reminder that Weaver Vale Housing Trust is continuing with neighbourhood strolls which began last month, in order to help identify environmental issues which are causing concern such as graffiti, fly-tipping hot spots or external repairs such as damaged walls.

Residents are encouraged to join staff in the strolls to share their knowledge of the estates in which they live. Each stroll will begin at 9.30am and will last between 1 and 2 hours. If you would like to take part, please come along to any of the following strolls:-

| Area: | Stroll Date: | Meet outside the following start locations: |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Leftwich | Tuesday 22 nd June | Wakefield Court, Clifton Drive |
| Rudheath | Tuesday 29 th June | Community House, 38 Cotebrook Road |
| Over | Tuesday 6 th July | The Edge |
| Wharton Gardens | Tuesday 13 th July | Entrance to Wharton Gardens |
| Weaverham Lime | Weds 1 st September | Moretons Meade, Walnut Avenue |
| Weaverham Farm | Thurs 2 nd September | Front of Farm Close flats, Farm Road |
| Lostock Gralam | Tues 7 th September | Entrance to Park, Corner of Townshend and Fryer Road |

For further information, contact Philip Singleton on 01606 813422 or e-mail: phil.singleton@wvht.co.uk

Grozone Latest News

The Grozone Community Garden partnership project is going from strength to strength. Since January, an intergenerational garden design team consisting of students and staff from Reaseheath College and Rudheath High School, along with retired community volunteers, have been working on a garden design which will transform the Council-owned Old Danes Nursery site in East Northwich (the former plant nursery land has been vacant for 15 years).

Final designs were on display on 20th May at Groundwork Cheshire's office in Northwich in a grand exhibition which also showcased the excellent work completed during the process as well as the final designs. Approximately 30 people attended the exhibition and the fabulous garden designs created by the intergenerational design team will be made available on the Grozone blog website at: <http://groundworkaction.org.uk/grozone/>. Volunteers and members of the steering group will now be deciding which design or aspects of the designs to use on site.



There is also a plea for volunteers to help transform the site – every Saturday up to and including 3rd July - all are welcome! Contact Beth Brockett at Groundwork for more details on 01606 723160 or e-mail: beth.brockett@groundwork.org.uk

“SIGNPOSTS” is a ‘supporting and listening’ service, open to callers on **Thursdays** from **10.00am – 1.30pm** at **Main Street Community Church, Frodsham**. They are not professional advisers, just ordinary people with a bit of life experience who may be able to support you in practical or personal challenges such as *budgeting*, *debt issues* and *contact with authorities*, including making phone calls or on the internet.

Tel: 01928 735589 or e-mail: signposts@uwclub.net

Waste Not Want Not: Recycle Week

Volunteer Centre Chester and Blacon Community Trust have joined forces to promote “Recycle Now Week” which runs from 20th – 27th June. As part of this, **Blacon Community Centre** will be hosting “**Waste Not Want Not**” on **Wednesday 23rd June** between **10.00am and 2.00pm**. This exciting and innovative awareness raising event aims to engage Chester’s diverse community and will focus on recycling and green issues by way of the following:-

- Learn how to fix your bike
- Make the most of your leftovers
- Craft session out of rubbish
- Art exhibition
- A live band playing homemade instruments
- Find out how to reduce your household bills
- Book and toy swap
- Chester’s answer to Gok Wan
- Grown your own veg



The event would not be possible without the voluntary action of the many groups involved whose clients and service users have given their time and energy to contribute to the day. Some of these include Chester Aid to the Homeless; Muir Group Housing; Hope Centre; Age Concern Cheshire; Cheshire West and Chester Council’s Community Day Service; Chester and Ellesmere Port Young Carers; and Sustainable Blacon.

For further information, contact Clare Harrison, Volunteer Centre Chester, on 01244 316587 or e-mail: clare.harrison@chesterva.org.uk

Local Councils News

Emma Stevens has recently taken up the role of Parish Liaison Officer within the Partnerships and Area Working Team at Cheshire West and Chester Council. Emma will act as the main corporate interface between the Council, the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) and all Local (Town and Parish) Councils across the borough, providing necessary advice and support and co-ordinating communication between the two tiers of local government.

The main responsibilities include:-

- ✓ developing and maintaining effective links with all Local Councils across the borough, including dealing with individual queries and enquiries;
- ✓ organising the Council’s Annual Local Councils’ conference and other associated events;
- ✓ regular liaison with the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) including attendance at their quarterly Area meetings;
- ✓ supporting Local Councils in their engagement with the wider West Cheshire Partnership Framework, specifically Area Partnership Boards (APBs) and West Cheshire Together (LSP); and
- ✓ co-ordinating all communications between the Council and individual Local Councils.

The next Annual Conference with Local Councils was due around April/May but was deferred due to the election and also the ongoing dialogue currently underway as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee’s Local Council’s review. Following the recent seminar on 19th May, a series of further seminars is planned and the next seminar is scheduled for **Wednesday 14th July, 6.30pm** at **Chester Town Hall** on the topic of **Double Taxation**. An invitation has been circulated to Local Council clerks.

In the meantime, Emma can be contacted on 01244 972671 or e-mail: emma.stevens@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Feedback from individual Thematic Partnerships

Business, Enterprise and Culture: met on 13th May and launched a rolling programme to help focus its work on a number of key themes, though Enterprise and Business formed the basis for discussion. The Board recognised the benefits of concentrating its efforts within a small geographical location and the need to better understand the culture of that area in order to shape the right interventions.

A number of measures were identified by the Board as the key ingredients towards helping local areas kick-start enterprise and business growth including: *increasing awareness, growing ambition, increasing trust using a neutral medium* (not a public agency) and *having strong role models*. Finance and resources were also recognised but needed to be routed through the creation of local links rather than using the usual high-street route.

A small sub-group of Board members and officer support has now been put in place to progress the work of this first key theme of Enterprise and Business. The group will aim to identify a targeted package of initiatives that could be delivered within a small geographical area of Ellesmere Port.

A major **Business Show event** for the Cheshire Sub-region is in the planning stage with a lead-in time of between 12–18 months. The Board will explore the possibility of staging an earlier event for businesses in West Cheshire.

Finally, the Board has recently extended its membership to include Mark Abram from Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, Helen Woollacott from the Skills Funding Agency and Geoff John-Terry, Executive Chairman of the Weaver Valley Board.

The next meeting is scheduled for 15th July.

For further information, contact Fil Prevc, Policy Manager, on 01244 972885 or e-mail: filip.prevc@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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Environmental Sustainability: met on 18th May and received a presentation from Jeanette Dodd, Cheshire West and Chester Council Transport and Planning Team, on developing an *Accessibility Strategy* for the borough. This wide-ranging strategy will look at the ease with which people can reach essential services such as healthcare, education, food shops and employment sites. The Thematic Group agreed to adopt the strategy as a core function of the group and include this as a standard agenda item at future meetings.

Vanessa Tucker presented the Council's *Growing Strategy* for the borough, which aims to see West Cheshire as a place where communities grow their own to feel good, look good and make that difference. Comments were invited prior to the development of a more detailed action plan.

Finally, consideration was given to the role of this Thematic Group in taking forward the commitments within the newly launched Sustainable Community Strategy "Together we can Aim High". Chair of the group, Jane Staley, presented a discussion paper which identified which facets of this Thematic Group already play a contributory role and areas for future development.

The next meeting is scheduled for 22nd June.

For further information, contact Peter Bulmer, Climate Change Manager, on 01244 972427 or e-mail: peter.bulmer@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Feedback from Thematic Leads meeting

The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the five Thematic Partnerships met on 24th May and were briefed by Government Office North West on the likely *implications of the new political arrangements* on partnership and area working. The next steps around the *Health Inequalities Plan* were presented prior to a final draft being taken to West Cheshire Together in July. There was further discussion on the refinement of the *strategic Risk Register* adopted by West Cheshire Together at its April meeting. The latest on the *Comprehensive Area Assessment*, progress with the *Local Area Agreement* and news from the *Sub-regional level* were all considered, as well as updates from each of the five individual *Thematic Partnerships*.

You can read the minutes of this meeting on the West Cheshire Together partnerships website at: http://www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk/strategic_themes.aspx

Trustees required

Chester Voluntary Action (CVA) - a local support and development organisation whose mission is to promote and support voluntary and community action – is seeking enthusiastic and committed Trustees with an interest or understanding of the local third sector to further strengthen its existing Board of Trustees. The Board is responsible for working with the Chief Officer to agree the strategic vision and mission and provide direction to ensure that the organisation achieves its goals.

Applications are particularly welcome from those who can bring specialist knowledge and/or experience in one or more of the following areas: **IT**, **Fundraising** and **Human Resources**.

The Board meets four times a year during normal working hours and applicants should also be able to attend sub-committees and any other relevant meetings. Whilst this is a voluntary role, all reasonable expenses will be reimbursed and an induction into the work of the organisation and the roles and responsibilities will be provided.

The role will provide an ideal opportunity for anyone interested in developing their knowledge and experience of working in the third sector, as well as enabling them to make a valuable contribution to the work of CVA in providing vital services and support to local groups.

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee, please contact Carol Berry, CVA Chief Officer, for more information or an informal chat on 01244 323527 (e-mail: carol.berry@chesterva.org.uk) The application deadline is **Friday 16th July**. For more information about Chester Voluntary Action, visit www.chesterva.org.uk

Health Promotion Days!

A last reminder about the following events being held in conjunction with NHS Western Cheshire:-

- **Saturday 26th June** between 10.00am and 3.00pm at High Street Church, Malpas (as part of Malpas Family Weekend)
- **Friday 9th July** between 10.00am and 3.00pm at Neston Town Hall

Why not drop in and discover more about the different aspects of health, including physical and social exercise, holistic therapy and both general and specific advice on maintaining good health. For further information, contact the Rural West Team on 01244 973334 or e-mail: ruralwest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Feedback from recent Community Forums

Hoole, Upton & Newton – met on 24th May at St Werburgh’s and St Columba’s Primary School in Hoole and tried a different format. The first 45 minutes was used as an opportunity for residents to raise issues with representatives from planning, highways, streetscene, community safety and ward Councillors. This new format proved a great success with lively discussions and positive feedback from residents. There then followed a presentation from Rita Waters (Chester Renaissance Chief Executive) on Rhino Mania – an innovative art project soon to hit the streets of Chester involving local schools, businesses and community groups. There was an update on recent “skip days” held in Hoole and Kingsway (funded through Members’ budgets) where residents benefited from a free skip and chance to recycle unwanted household goods.

Date of next meeting: Monday 5th July, 6.30pm, University of Chester, Kingsway Buildings

Gow – met on 1st June at Tarvin Community Centre, the first meeting since separating from Eddisbury. Presentations were given on planning issues, Chester Renaissance and the Council’s forthcoming Waste consultation. A low attendance is believed to be due to it being held during school half term and the day after the bank holiday.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th September, Christleton High School

Eddisbury – A report on the first Eddisbury Community Forum since the split with Gow, held on 1st June, will appear in the July bulletin.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th September (venue to be confirmed)

Northwich West & Abbey – A report on this forum which met on 3rd June at Leftwich Community Primary School will appear in the July bulletin.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 2nd September (venue to be confirmed)

Skills Development Programmes

The North West Joint Improvement Partnership (NWJIP) has commissioned the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) to develop a programme of skills development for commissioners in both health and social care, at higher education level. The second series of Skills Development programmes will start in September with the *Integrated Commissioning of Social Care and Health programme*.

Current planned dates for this programme, which is made up of three modules, are:

- Module 1: September 21st, 22nd, 23rd
- Module 2: October 12th, 13th, 14th
- Module 3: November 23rd, 24th, 25th

The programme is the foundation of a wider programme of skills development delivered for NWJIP by UCLAN. There is currently no charge for undertaking the programme without accreditation; accreditation at undergraduate or postgraduate level is available at a single fee of £350 per person.

To register your interest, contact rachel.cross@northwestjip.nhs.uk by 30th June. Successful nominees will then be asked to register with the University of Central Lancashire prior to the start of the Programme.

Forthcoming Community Forum Dates

As we go to print, the following Community Forums are due to take place as follows:-

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| Northwich East, Shakerley and Marbury | <i>Tuesday 15th June, 7.00pm, Byley Village Hall (Community Safety Surgery from 6.30pm)</i> <i>Wednesday 7th July, 7.00pm, Northwich Memorial Hall</i> |
| Boughton Heath, Vicars Cross and Overleigh | <i>Wednesday 16th June, 6.00pm, St Luke's Church, Huntington</i> |
| Winsford | <i>Wednesday 16th June, 7.00pm, Winsford Library</i> |
| Central, Grange, Westminster and Rossmore | <i>Monday 21st June, 6.00pm, Ellesmere Port Civic Hall</i> |
| Broxton | <i>Saturday 26th June, High Street Church, Malpas - Rural West "Health Promotion Day"</i> |
| Groves, Whitby, Sutton and Manor | <i>Wednesday 30th June, 6.00pm, St Thomas and All Saints Church, Ellesmere Port</i> |
| Blacon | <i>Tuesday 6th July, 6.00pm, Holy Trinity Church</i> |
| Neston, Parkgate, Ledsham and Willaston | <i>Friday 9th July, Neston Town Hall - Rural West "Health Promotion Day"</i> |
| Frodsham, Helsby and Weaver | <i>Thursday 15th July, 7.00pm, Frodsham Scout Hall, Overton</i> |
| Mickle Trafford | <i>Wednesday 21st July, 6.30pm, Hey House, Fiddlers Lane, Saughall</i> |

FEEDBACK.....your views or news

Your comments on this bulletin, or any partnership news you would like to share, should be forwarded to either:-

Alistair Jeffs, Head of Policy, Performance, Partnerships & Transformation

E-mail: alistair.jeffs@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

or

Julie Gill, Head of Resources

E-mail: julie.gill@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

What to look forward to in **July's** edition 18:-

- ⇒ *Further **Third Sector Assembly** developments, including a new **website***
- ⇒ *More on the August **Playdays***
- ⇒ *Feedback from meetings of the Thematic Groups, including the **Stronger sub-group** of the Safer & Stronger Communities Group*
- ⇒ *Social Enterprise growth success for **Furniture Finders of Winsford***